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MESSING ON WHY MESSING AROUND MAY BE OK {page 10}

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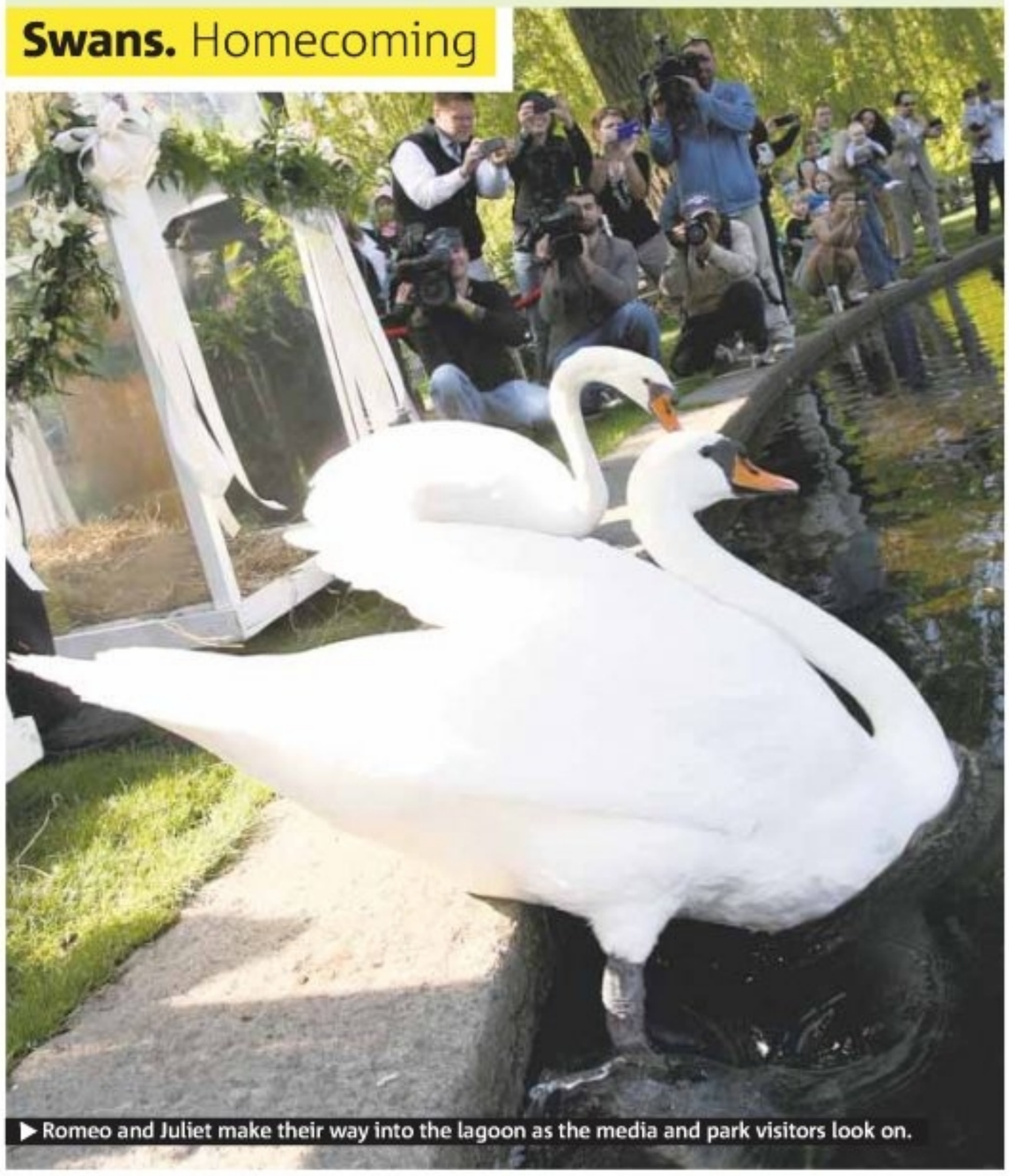
Tuesday, May 8, 2012

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Swans. Homecoming



▶ Romeo and Juliet make their way into the lagoon as the media and park visitors look on.

Public Garden swans swing into spring

The Public Garden swans returned to their outdoor home in the lagoon yesterday morning — an annual event that often signifies that spring is in full swing in Boston. Romeo and Juliet, the names given to the swans, spend their winter at the Franklin Park Zoo before returning each spring to the Public Garden. The event began with a parade past the Make Way for Ducklings statue and ended with the swans' release on the shore across from the swan boats. METRO

Could storm surge wipe MBTA right off the map?

Climate change group says the right weather system will submerge T by 2040 Activists hand out thousands of 'new' route maps to riders {page 02}

Books

How to really write about sex

New John Irving novel makes '50 Shades of Grey' look like a kids' book Author on why this country should grow up {page 09}

Ecuador, the center of fun {page 17}

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Tempest in a T-pot?

Group claims climate change will impact public transit ◗ New T map handed out to raise awareness about potential environmental shift

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Katy Annulli was among the activists who handed out mock MBTA maps in an effort to educate Hub commuters on the impact climate change could have on public transit.

Members of the Metro Boston Climate Defense team, a mashup coalition conjured up by 350.org and MassUniting, claim an intense nor'easter or destructive hurricane as a result of extreme climate changes could put parts of the Hub's public transit system underwater by 2040.

"Climate change is happening now — you see it in the strange weather patterns and erratic seasons and it's going to get worse as we move along," said Jason Stephany, communications director for MassUNITING.

Based on research from the report "Climate change and coastal flooding in Metro Boston," posted on the city of Boston's website, Stephany and members of the group handed out pamphlets to thousands of riders yesterday outside Copley Square depicting the MBTA tracks and the potential impact a natural disaster could have on the subway.

"We are talking significant portions of the T would have to be turned into ferries," said Stephany.

The group wants to raise awareness about climate change and storm preparedness as part of an international push.

"I've seen firsthand the kind of economic and environmental destruction these floods can cause — and I don't want to see it happen again here in Boston," said Chandra Richardson, a Katrina survivor who moved to Boston. "We need to raise awareness and take action now to help prevent future disasters."

MBTA officials did not return e-mails sent by Metro asking about the potential impacts of climate change on the transit system.

According to the city of Boston's website, officials are incorporating projected climate change into all formal planning and project review processes.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

On the map

According to the activists at Metro Boston Climate Defense, here are three danger zones to keep in mind in the case we encounter a severe storm:

1. Parts of Dorchester, East Boston, South End, Back Bay, Logan Airport and the Financial District could be affected in the event of a storm surge.
2. The Red Line between Park and Kendall would be wiped out by water
3. Copley, Arlington, and Hynes would go under.

Quoted

"Boston has been a leader nationwide preparing for [climate change]."

JASON STEPHANY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR MASSUNITING

Spend environment to save environment?

While some might question whether printing out thousands of pamphlets showing the negative effects of climate change on the city is good for the environment, according to Jason Stephany, it's necessary.

"This is too critical of an issue to not do everything we can to raise public awareness," he said. "Of course, when our outreach efforts require printed materials, we use recycled paper." METRO/SA

Quoted

"I pride myself on the art of power hitting."

FORMER RED SOX AND MLB SLUGGER JOSE CANSECO. THE 47-YEAR-OLD FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYER HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY FOR HIS INTRODUCTION AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE WORCESTER TORNADOES BASEBALL TEAM.

Today's local tweet

"Ew! Teen has pet mouse perched on shoulder & burrowing in his T-shirt on Red Line. Did we learn nothing from the loose snake last year?"

@LSTEPHENS47 WATCHING A RODENT CLIMB AROUND ITS OWNER WHILE RIDING PUBLIC TRANSIT. MOMENTS LATER, SOMEONE ALLEGEDLY SPOTTED AN IGUANA.

Man allegedly stabbed more than 80 times

EAST BOSTON. A 20-year-old Revere man pleaded not guilty yesterday to fatally stabbing an East Boston man more than 80 times Friday.

Cristian Santa was ordered held without bail.

Prosecutors said Santa's motive was unclear, but he and John Barrientos, 50, were drinking together Thursday night.

Police were called to the scene in East Boston about 5 a.m. Friday and found Barrientos' body, which had more than 80 stab wounds, according to the Globe.

A prosecutor said investigators were able to link Santa to the murder scene through witness statements, footwear impressions and two bloody fingerprints. METRO

▶ Santa

Missing Boston police drug evidence located

BOSTON. A package of drugs that was determined to be missing during an audit of the Boston Police Department's drug depository has been located.

Police said in a statement yesterday that the single package of bulk drug evidence was improperly shelved in a nearby location and called the mishap an "administrative error."

A routine audit discovered that the package was missing, causing an immediate search of the area.

In the statement, Commissioner Ed Davis called on the Legislature to assist with a more expedient process of drug destruction to "alleviate the burden of housing" drug evidence. METRO

Race for Space

JUSTIN DOWD

WINNER OF METRO'S RACE FOR SPACE CONTEST

SPACE: WE'VE JUST BEGUN

Justin Dowd, a student at Northeastern University, defeated hundreds of thousands of other Metro readers around the world to win a trip into space in 2014. In the coming weeks Justin will be writing a new popular science column for Metro — and here he recalls a week to remember.

Last September, while riding the train my heart jumped as I stumbled across the Metro Race for Space article.

For a better chance of winning I started a project. I drew an animated video using color chalkboards to explain Einstein's discoveries, called chalkimation.

Seven months and three-thousand pictures later, my brother and I climbed narrow stairs to the roof of our apartment, a Metro photographer in tow. We waited for a call from the global editor to announce the winner. Each second flooded my brain with a fresh splash of adrenaline. The phone rang.

An upbeat voice in my ear said she had good news, I had won a trip to space. My mind went blank, except for the words "YOU WON" flashing in my head like a bright neon sign. I could not think of the past or future, just the intensity of the moment; I felt alive.

People I knew took the news well. One friend screamed before laughing hysterically. My mother instantly began crying. One friend called her retired father, he answered, "Someone better be dead, this is my nap time" after hearing the news he responded, "That little s—."

Quoted

"This contest is not the end of opportunities for space flight but the beginning, and progress will take work and collaboration from bold companies like SXC and Metro International."
DOWD

A week after nonstop interviews, I cannot picture space better now than before. However, two main ideas are more real to me. First is the honor of truthfully sharing this experience. Second is the dawn of a private space age.

In their youth, my grandparents spent weeks traveling to America. If someone said back then soon they could fly home above the clouds in six hours, few would have believed it. A new private space age is here. The world will become connected in faster and unprecedented ways few among us can believe. The closure of this contest is not the end of opportunities for space flight but the beginning, and progress will take work and collaboration from bold companies like SXC and Metro International.

I feel honored and responsible to share what I experience on this journey truthfully. I do not know what I will learn, but there is only one way to find out.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Live like the Sultan of Swat

A real estate broker is hoping to hit a home run with his latest listing — Babe Ruth's Sudbury home.

The 5,124-square-foot house is on two acres and was built in 1800. It also has a barn, stables, a pool and room for 25 parking spaces.

▶ It's $1.65 million for a piece of history.

But it's not just the spacious home and land that make the listing price $1.65 million. It's also the history. The former Red Sox and New York Yankees slugger made his home there for years.

Scott Adamson, an agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, said there are still some burn marks in one room of the house where Ruth would flick his cigar ashes.

Adamson said he expects the sale to happen quickly as the publicity has generated a lot of interest in the home.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON

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A love story with an ending TBD

Despite marriage to girlfriend, Pakistani woman may be sent home when student visa expires ◗ Sen. John Kerry writes letter to help cause ◗ Lawyer says couple should have same rights as straight couples

A Beverly couple that married last year is facing an uncertain future because one of them is Pakistani and they both are lesbians.

The couple — Jackie and Gloria — is facing a problem that straight couples do not have to worry about.

Because her student visa is set to expire and the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriages, Gloria could be deported to her home country — Pakistan. The couple did not want their last names published.

Sen. John Kerry recently wrote a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano seeking help. He asked that a petition by Gloria to stay in the United States not be acted upon until after the outcome of the legal challenges of the controversial Defense of Marriage Act.

"Abeyance will allow this remarkable young married couple to move forward with their dream of building a life together at home in Massachusetts," Kerry wrote.

The couple, both 24, met and fell in love while attending college in Massachusetts.

However, due to financial difficulties, Gloria had to suspend pursuing her education.

They married in October around the same time they received notification that if Gloria did not re-enroll in courses, her student visa would lapse.

Gloria is fearful of returning to Pakistan as a lesbian because of the harsh negative treatment she would receive there.

While they legally married in Massachusetts, the Defense of Marriage Act does not recognize it on the federal level. That means straight couples in the same situation would have access to a green card while same-sex couples do not.

"An American citizen who falls in love and marries someone from another country has access to a system that works fairly well," said their lawyer, Lavi Soloway. "But when it comes to gay and lesbian couples who began marrying in this country ... that process is closed to them."

STOP THE DEPORTATIONS THE DOMA PROJECT

▶ Gloria, left, and her wife Jackie, are legally married in Massachusetts, but the federal government does not recognize their marriage and will not grant Gloria a green card.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

"We just keep our hopes up and try to live each day the best we can. We don't know (what will happen), so every day we cherish being together and try to keep the fight going."
JACKIE

"It's very stressful because we don't know for sure what's going to happen. We don't know where we're going to be in the next six months or in the near future."
GLORIA

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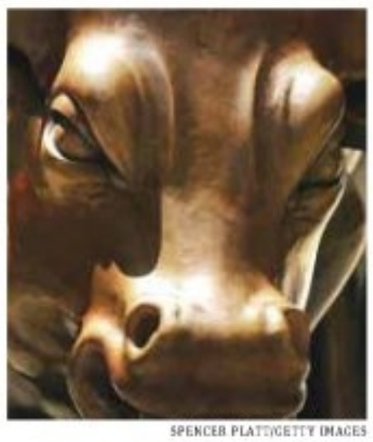
Markets take Euro upheaval in their stride

World markets took political upheaval in Europe largely in stride yesterday, a day after voters in Greece and France delivered strong mandates against austerity measures, with the euro recovering from sharp losses and local equity markets up.

The results of the weekend elections in the two European countries heightened the uncertainty of the path ahead for the euro zone debt crisis. But most European stock markets rose, with the noted exception of Greece, and U.S. stocks were also mostly higher, while the euro weakened only slightly.



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Britain, not part of the euro zone but Europe's biggest financial market, was closed for a public holiday.

A world equity gauge, however, fell to a three-month low in part because of a sell-off in Asia overnight as markets caught up with sharp declines in Europe and New York last Friday. Crude oil prices fell as the uncertainty in Europe unnerved investors concerned about global growth.

The euro pared most of its steep losses against the U.S. dollar but was still trading near a three-week low at $1.3053. A close at that level would be the lowest since mid March.

Brent crude futures touched lows near $110, the lowest since January, but settled down just 2 cents at $113.28. U.S. crude futures hit a session low of $95.34 per barrel, the lowest so far this year, and were last trading down 0.5 percent at $98 per barrel, a three-month low.

Treasury debt prices edged higher, with the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note up 1/32 to yield 1.8733 percent. **REUTERS**

TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, left, talks with Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, ranking member, before a House Budget Committee markup in Cannon Building of Sequester Replacement Act.

GOP aim to slash $380B from social programs, but defend the military

Republicans in the House of Representatives yesterday fired their first shots of the next deficit-reduction battle, advancing legislation to cut nearly $380 billion largely from social programs while protecting defense spending.

The cuts to food stamps, child tax credits and Medicaid health care for the poor, among others, are certain to stall in the Democratic-controlled Senate. But they stake out Republicans' negotiating stance on replacing $1.2 trillion in automatic, across-the-board spending cuts that are due to take effect in January.

The Sequester Replacement Act authored by influential House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and expected to be approved by the panel, also will underscore the deep differences between Republican and Democratic spending priorities as campaigns for November's elections gain momentum.

Already, House Democrats are pouncing on the effort as hurting the poor, claiming that $35.8 billion in food stamp reductions over 10 years will cut off 1.8 million people from the nutrition assistance program. **REUTERS**

News in brief

Zuckerberg at NYC Facebook IPO event

NEW YORK. Facebook Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg fielded questions about the No. 1 social network's slowing revenue growth and its $1 billion purchase of Instagram as he kicked off a cross-country roadshow to promote the company's $10 billion initial public offering.

Wearing his trademark "hoodie" sweatshirt, jeans and sneakers, the 27-year-old

chief executive said he would do the Instagram deal again if he had to, according to people who attended the event.

Hundreds of investors attended the presentation at New York's Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

The world's largest social network aims to raise about $10.6 billion. **REUTERS**

Angry Birds set for IPO as profits jump

HELSINKI. Angry Birds maker Rovio Entertainment said sales jumped tenfold to $100 million last year as gamers flocked to download its titles, adding business was now strong enough for a stock market listing.

The Finnish startup making Angry Birds games — in which players use a slingshot to attack pigs who steal the birds' eggs — has been valued by analysts at up to $9 billion, just short of that of

struggling world No.2 phonemaker Nokia.

Rovio said yesterday its finances were good enough for a listing after revealing a highly profitable 2011 in its first public disclosure of business results and forecast a bumper year ahead. **REUTERS**

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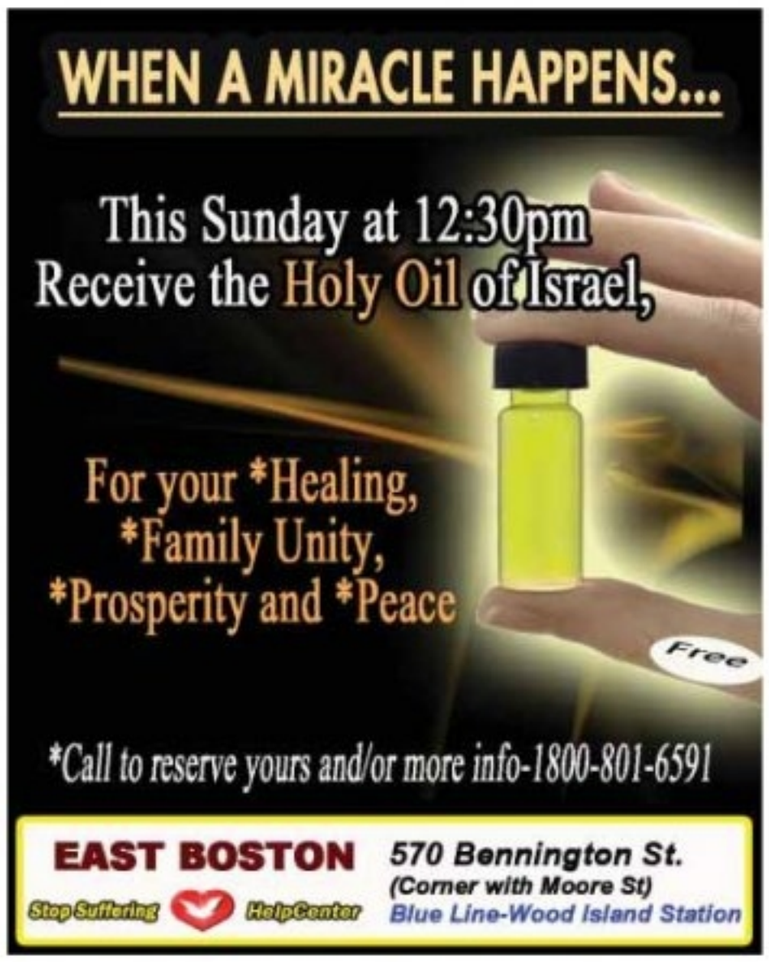

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BRAYDEN SIMMS

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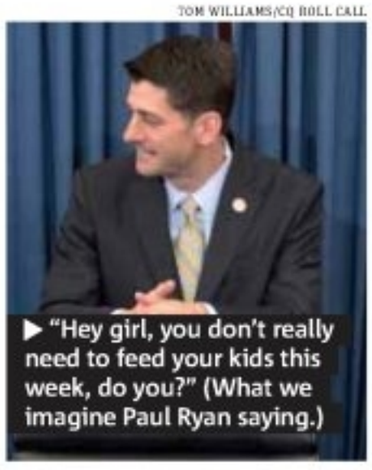
During a week in which the austerity policies of the Euro Zone were dealt clear electoral repudiations, Republicans have moved forward with plans to impose their own brand of austerity here in the United States.

France, Greece and Germany saw pro-austerity leaders lose elections this weekend following months of economic misery fed by the spreading contagion of anti-spending policy. In two years, these cuts only yielded more pain, taking money from the pockets of workers and thus deepening recessions.

That fever has caught here in the States, too, at least among the right wing, but has been largely held at bay by the Democrat president. (We say "largely" because Obama did bow to Republican pressure to cut public sector payrolls and limit stimulus packaging, thus, Keynesian economists say, prolonging the current recession.)

Now House Republicans are proposing to cut hundreds of billions in food aid, health care and other social services mainly aimed at the poor as a means of sidestepping the consequences of their failure to deal. This proposal represents an abandonment of last year's unsuccessful deficit-reduction deal, in which the parties attempted to force themselves into cooperation by creating the super committee. That plan came with a built-in incentive to reach a deal: Sequestration, mandated cuts in the absence of compromise that neither party could stomach. In this case, Republicans are attempting to undo their half of the bad deal, $1.2 trillion in Pentagon cuts over the next decade.

TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL



▶ "Hey girl, you don't really need to feed your kids this week, do you?" (What we imagine Paul Ryan saying.)

Of course, it's all a game. Obama won't sign whatever awful bill the GOP produces, and they know it. Yet it's interesting to see the extent to which Republicans are willing to double- and quadruple-down on austerity. They must believe this to be a winning battle in November. For what it's worth, Europeans thought otherwise, but then, they lived through the disasterous consequences. Whether we must do the same has yet to be determined.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Just the headlines:

- "Obama campaign office staff lacks racial diversity, may violate civil rights law" **THE DAILY CALLER**
- "Media silent when administration targets sources" **MIAMIHERALD.COM**
- "Romney's Business Schtick Probably Not Much of a Winner" **MOTHER JONES**
- "New Frontiers in Neo-Swiftboating: Obama Was Ready to Blame the Troops!" **SLATE.COM**
- "Obama To Spend $25 Million On Ads In May" **TPM**
- "Crushing Regulatory Burden? You Don't See it in Biz Investment" **JAREDBERNSTEINBLOG.COM**

He said, we said

"Barack Obama will say and do anything ... to help him get elected."

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REINCE PRIEBUS YESTERDAY ON THE JOE BIDEN GAY MARRIAGE GAFFE FROM SUNDAY. WE THINK MR. OBAMA IS DOING HIMSELF A DISSERVICE BY CONTINUING THE FACADE OF NOT COMING OUT IN FAVOR OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY; A MAJORITY NOW SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS IN THIS AREA. AS FOR MR. PRIEBUS: THE GENTLEMAN DOTH PROJECT TOO MUCH. HERE HE ATTACKS OBAMA ON HIS STRENGTHS BY ACCUSING HIM OF ONE OF THE MOST LASTING WEAKNESSES OF HIS RIVAL, MITT ROMNEY.

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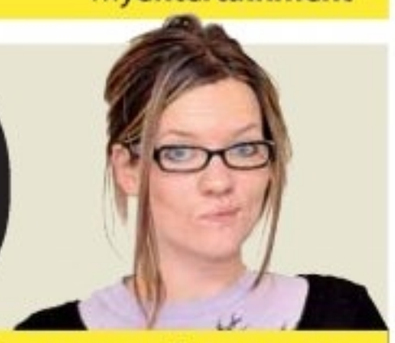
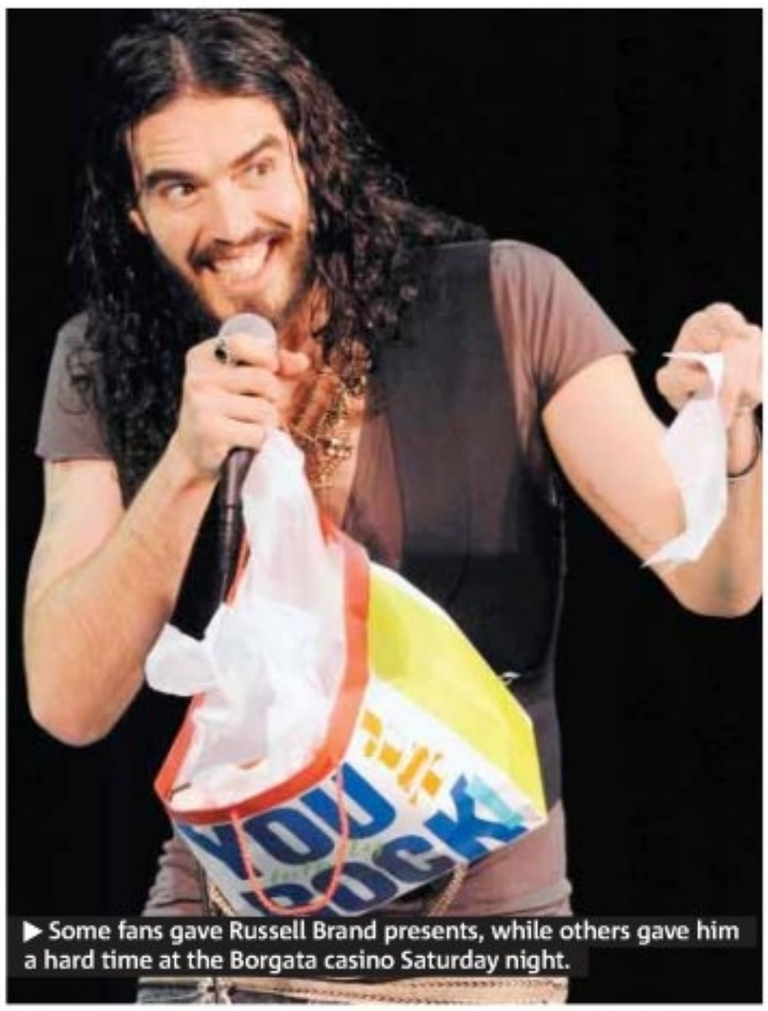


Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Heckle Brand at your own risk

Russell Brand was likely expecting some heckling at his stand-up show Saturday night. It was, after all, Cinco de Mayo in Atlantic City, where tequila is always on the breakfast menu. But when one audience member wouldn't stop shouting "**Katy Perry**," the comedian left the stage to defend his ex-wife's honor — or, more accurately, summon the powers of his British accent to methodically, expertly shame a drunk Jersey guy. "Let's see how your mental illness looks in the daylight," Brand said, requesting that the house lights be turned on. After asking the audience to out the heckler, Brand wasn't pleased with what he discovered: "You look like something that's fallen off the side of a church. And what is it that you have rattling around in your mind? Some bizarre combination of alcohol and idiocy. Some cocktail of nothing."

Excuse us — "cocktail of nothing"? That, Russell, would be a Red Bull and vodka, the patron drink of obnoxious Americans everywhere. Show a little respect.



▶ Some fans gave Russell Brand presents, while others gave him a hard time at the Borgata casino Saturday night.

Debra Messing: Till death is a long time

GETTY IMAGES

Debra Messing's marriage to **Daniel Zelman** lasted 20 years, and she thinks that should get at least partial credit in 2012. "I think the institution of marriage is a noble thing. I think the idea of a partner for life is incredibly romantic," the actress tells Ladies Home Journal. "But now we're living to 100. A hundred years ago people were dying at age 37. Till death do us part was a much different deal."

We see your typhoid fever, 1912 newlyweds, and we raise you one drunk night on Facebook.

Jack Osbourne on fatherhood

New dad **Jack Osbourne** had some sweet words on fatherhood for Hello! magazine. "The moment I saw her I felt more love than I'd ever felt for anything. It was the weirdest, most overwhelming thing," said Osbourne of 2-week-old **Pearl**, his daughter with fiancee **Lisa Stelly**.

Cute stuff. But we can't help but focus on grandmom **Sharon Osbourne**, who managed to land herself in the center of the cover and get to hold the baby. Good luck with that one, Lisa.

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@AlbertBrooks
Breaking News: Romney will choose The Avengers as his running mate.

@SteveMartinToGo
I shot an arrow into the air, where it landed, I know not...gulp.

@SethMacFarlane
Okay Hindus, trim it down to about 5 gods and I swear I'll learn their names.

@jimmykimmel
Is anyone else obsessed with charging handheld devices or is it just me?

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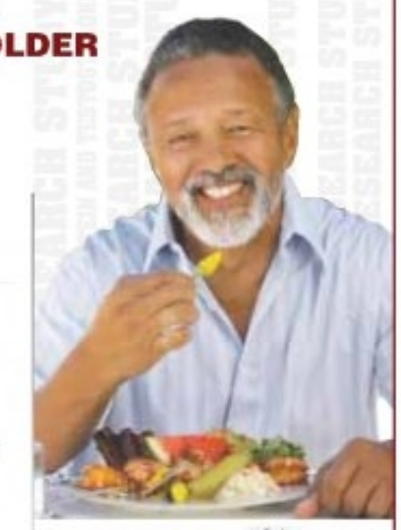

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'PERSON' OF INTEREST

With his 13th novel, John Irving has written what could be his most political work yet ◗ He just hopes for a day when this country will not view such sexually frank discourse as controversial

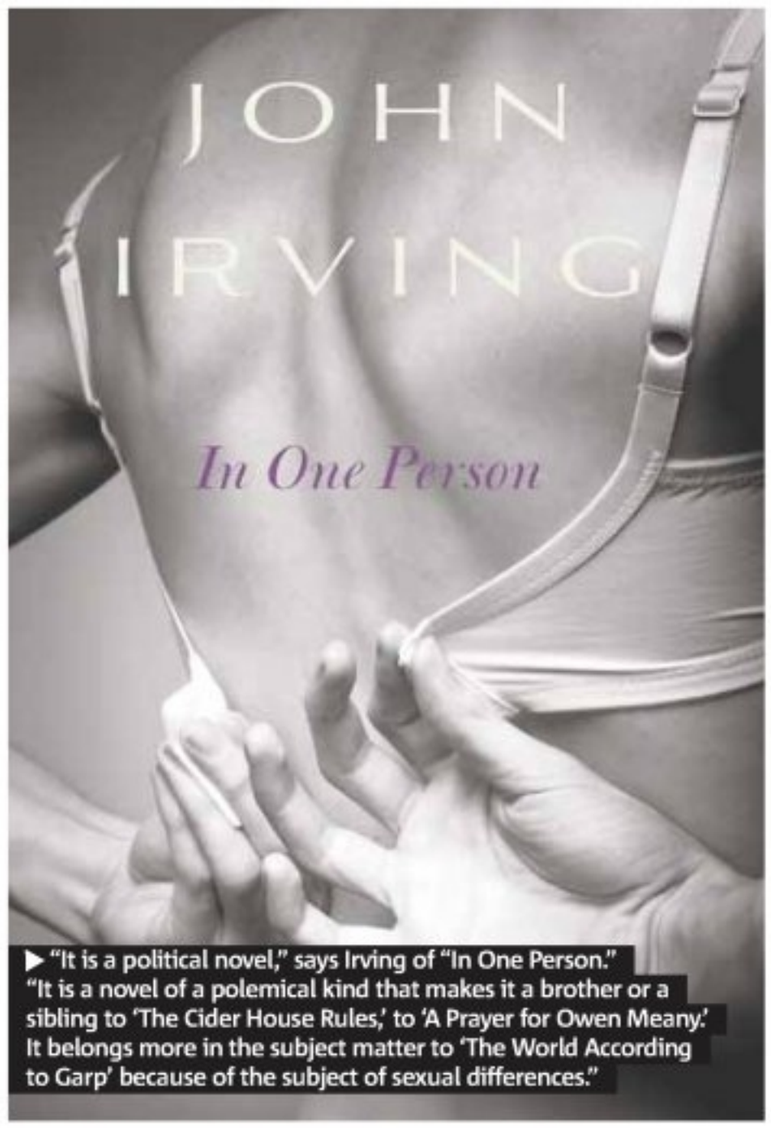
With "In One Person," John Irving may have written his most political book yet.

"The main character — the narrative point of view — is bisexual; the heroes — as I call them — are two transgendered women. Well, by definition, that's a political novel," says the author, leaning back in a chair in his home office. "In France, is that a political novel? In Germany? No! To me, it's kind of tragic that it's a political subject. ... It makes us a joke among countries who are a little more grown up sexually than we are."

Irving speaks like he writes. Long, ornate sentences may take several parenthetical tangents, but they always reach logical conclusions, and often uncover profound human truths.

Throughout the course of a two-hour interview, the author easily steps inside the psyches of characters he has invented in more than 40 years of publishing novels. Critics have suggested that too many of these characters are linked by constants like New England upbringings, parents who have abandoned them, enthusiasm for writing and/or wrestling, and sexuality in full bloom.

"I must like these people whose lives would be described by their society — to be kind — as odd or eccentric," he says.



▶ "It is a political novel," says Irving of "In One Person." "It is a novel of a polemical kind that makes it a brother or a sibling to 'The Cider House Rules,' to 'A Prayer for Owen Meany.' It belongs more in the subject matter to 'The World According to Garp' because of the subject of sexual differences."

"It's kind of tragic that it's a political subject. ... It makes us a joke among countries who are a little more grown up sexually than we are."

IRVING ON SEXUALITY IN AMERICA

Of Billy, the bisexual narrator of "In One Person," Irving is particularly sympathetic.

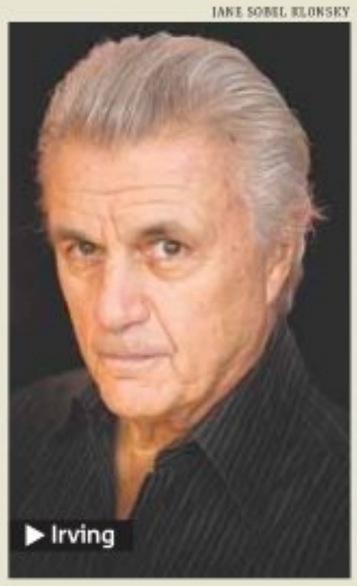
"In my generation," he says, "from the point of view of straight women, the bi guy was not to be trusted. Because who was he going to leave you for: Another woman or a guy? He was doubly untrustworthy. And among gay men of my generation, many of them didn't believe that there was such a thing as a bi guy; that it was just a gay guy with one foot in the closet, who was kind of hedging his bets. And everyone's saying, 'Well, give him time, we'll see how bi he is.' What do you say when 70 years later, that's who the guy is? You have to change your mind."

Talking 'In One Person' in-person

In Irving's Vermont home, even the fan above his oven is covered with photographs. Images of smiling family members are taped to support beams, framed formal pictures stand tented on most counter surfaces and the lifetime of snapshots that line the bulletin boards in the best-selling author's office feel like the sort of milestones that flash before one's eyes in a near-death experience.

This is all very fitting for a writer who renders such detailed arcs of his characters' entire lives, with equal parts humor and gravitas, through childhood innocence to adult understanding and finally to elderly repose.

JAKE SOBEL BLONSKY



▶ Irving

"I don't think that I'll ever lose my interest in the passage of time," says Irving. "The challenge is that the passage of time is what makes most of my books long."

Irving credits his ability to write from such varied age perspectives to his three sons.

"There has been one or more of my children living in my house, under my roof, for an unusually long time," says the 70-year-old author, whose first son was born when he was 22, and whose youngest son only left for college two years ago.

"Any parent would tell you this, but if you're around young people a lot ... it keeps your memory connected to who you were and what things were like when you were that age. ... I feel that it's been a crucial part of my storytelling process to find that point-of-view character whose eyes are open, their receptive senses are alive, and they are about to learn something."

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Getting to Know Your Nikon 1 - Basic Portriture with Tamron
Canon Powershot: The Basics and Beyond

Saturday

X-rite's Guide to Consistent Color -10 Tricks to Better Photos
Travel Photography with Tamron- Perfect Prints With Epson
Sports Photography for Parents with Sony
- Your Canon Rebel Inside and Out - Becoming A Stobist
-Getting to Know Your Nikon DSLR

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Making a toxic-free home for your baby

Experts warn about the everyday chemicals to watch out for if you have or are expecting a little one

STOCKBYTE

▶ Read more about chemicals that are potentially hazardous to your health in tomorrow's Metro.

Having a baby certainly brings change to a household. When Shiri Sarfati decided it was time to be a mom, she turned her home upside down.

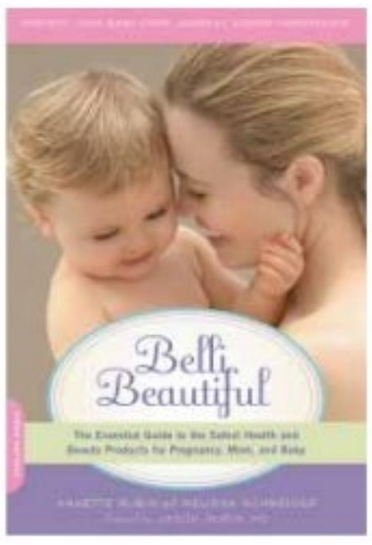
"As soon as we started thinking about having a baby, I wanted our home to be free of chemicals," says the native New Yorker. "When I was pregnant, I became so sensitive to even the smell of Windex, I just couldn't be anywhere near it."

Her body also became sensitive to beauty products, too, and now that she's breastfeeding, she's extravigilant: "If I eat broccoli and it makes the baby gassy, then [it only follows that] if I use a chemical in a skin care product, it's going to have an effect," she surmises.

Annette Rubin, the co-author of "Belli Beautiful: The Essential Guide to the Safest Health and Beauty Products for Pregnancy, Mom, and Baby," agrees. "Pregnant moms should avoid teratogens — ingredients that have been linked to birth defects. New moms should avoid ingredients that may be harmful to their breast milk supply, and babies should be kept clear of hormone-mimicking ingredients."

Rubin says that pregnant and nursing moms need to become label-reading experts: "Deciphering the labels on health and beauty products can be a challenge if you didn't major in chemistry with a minor in Latin," says Rubin. "You have to review the ingredient research and use that knowledge to change your purchasing habits."

As executive vice president of her mother's seaweed-based skin care line, Repêchage, Sarfati knows firsthand about dangerous synthetic chemicals.



"I learned from my mother about what's going into a product," she says. "Consumers ask more questions these days and that's very good. But we need to stay aware."

What to avoid

Sarfati's chemical no-no list is long, but these are at the top of it:

- **Petrolatum:** The oil industry by-product, listed in the European Union's Dangerous Substances Directive (UNECE 2004), is linked with breast cancer. "It's in the leading brand of baby care products and cosmetics. It interferes with the body's natural moisturizers and makes your skin drier."
- **Synthetic fragrance and colors:** "These are superfluous. People want bright, pretty colors, but natural pigments create nice shades, too. We are inhaling these toxic fumes in our homes on a daily basis. Fragrances can be a great irritant and cause allergies. Breathing in a toxic cloud is not good."
- **BPA (bisphenol A):** "There are so many BPA-free bottles and toys on the market and many retailers banned BPA products. Glass bottles and wooden toys are also available, but not as widely distributed as plastics. Soft toys made from organic cotton are great as well."

Expert-approved sunscreens for kids

Don't let all of Mother Nature's bounty fool you: Ingredients like lavender might be good for aging bodies, but not for young skin. "People have this perception that because it's natural, it's great, but we're trying to debunk that myth," Rubin says.

She recommends:

- Babo Botanicals Clear Zinc Sport Stick SPF 30, **$8, www.amazon.com**
- Episencial Sunny Sunscreen SPF 35, **$15, www.drugstore.com**
- Dr. Robin for Kids All Natural Chemical-Free Sunscreen SPF 30, **$28, www.amazon.com**
- Lavanila Healthy Baby Block SPF 40, **$20, www.sephora.com**

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

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Letters

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Tax inequality not so simple to smear

RE: "WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT PERCENT ARE WE NOW?": I'm a little bit tired of the people like Joshua Tordoff who blindly repeat Republican rhetoric without question. Had they just a little independence to do some research they would have found that the founding principles of the "53 percent" is flawed. The notion that "half of Americans don't pay taxes" not only overstates the share of households that do not pay federal income taxes in a typical year; it also ignores the other taxes poor people pay, including federal payroll taxes and state and local taxes. For example, if you look at state and local taxes, the working poor actually pay a higher percentage of their income in these taxes in every state except for Vermont. The top 400 taxpayers — who have more wealth than half of all Americans combined — are paying lower taxes than they have in a generation, as their tax responsibilities have slowly collapsed since the New Deal era as working families have been asked to pay more and more. Rather than taking aim at some of the poorest members of our society — 62 percent of whom have incomes under $20,000 — Americans should be asking how we can get the superwealthy to pay tax rates closer to their modern historical average and how we can lift up the incomes of those who are too impoverished to be asked to pay federal income taxes. **BARB MILUSKI, VIA E-MAIL**

Wall Street needs to be boring again

RE: "WALL STREET ONLY CREATES INEQUALITY": Joseph Connell writes that Wall Street doesn't build, invent, etc. That's true as far as it goes, but financial services are necessary infrastructure for real productivity and creativity. Wall Street is dysfunctional, not nonfunctional. A system that works is cheap and unobtrusive; one that doesn't is expensive and noticeable. Let's make banking boring again, and let's send speculators off to gamble just with each other. **DAN WYLIE-SEARS, BRIGHTON**

Meanwhile, in Syria: Slaughter persists

The slaughter in Syria continues unstopped. This shows us two things. First, Bashar al-Assad is a murdering monster, much the way his father was before him in Hama in 1982. And second, the Obama administration was naive in assuming a few nice words and a cute smile could turn Syria from a brutal dictatorship supporting terrorism. **ARTHUR HORN, VIA E-MAIL**

More on taxes: Obama the tyrant

Now that we have dutifully wrapped up our federal taxes for 2011 and helped pay for the waste and thievery in Washington, we can look ahead to what the descendants of Marx, Lenin and Engels have in mind for us for next year. If you are in the 10 percent bracket, kiss it goodbye because you will now be in the 15 percent bracket. That will gouge everybody even more, not just the $250,000-and-up earners. Elections matter. This administration is making a conscious effort to destroy the middle class any way it can. Remember in November. **JOHN SANGENARIO, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If you believe you have a better way to do something at work, it behooves you to offer your suggestion to a person who can make things happen.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You can reap rewards for yourself at work by being helpful to someone who is struggling. The bigwigs will most likely notice, and the other party will remember your aid, as well.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** This could be a very productive day for you, owing to your ability to put everything in its proper perspective. You'll know what to tackle and how to do so effectively.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** With your exceptional leadership and organizational skills, it shouldn't be too difficult to get others to follow your directives. They'll see that what you ask is good for them as well.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Overall conditions specifically favor projects that would enhance your material security in ways that could be long-lasting. Things look very promising in this regard.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't attempt to use flattery, subterfuge or insincerity when trying to make a pitch for something you want. Your colleagues will see right through you, and it won't help your case.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** The interests of you and your associates can be advanced if you treat people the way that you'd want to be treated. It's an old formula, but one that always works.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you need the assistance of an old friend, state your case clearly and factually. When she or he realizes your need, your pal will come through for you without having to be badgered.

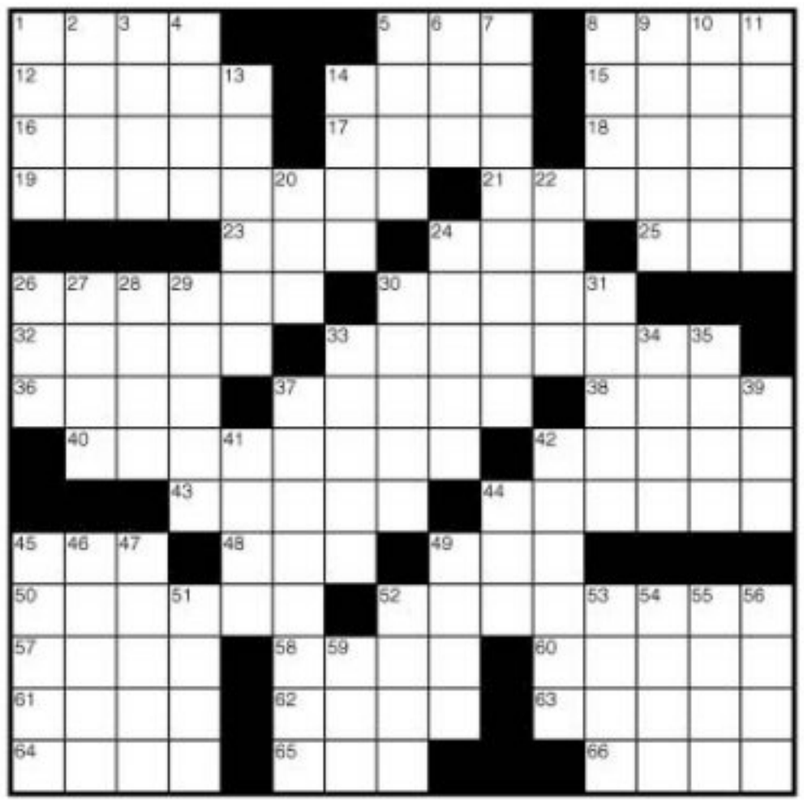
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Your chances for successfully fulfilling a large personal ambition are above normal. In addition to your strong will to do so, Lady Luck will help things fall in line for you.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Recognition that escaped you in the past regarding a certain project is likely to come at last. It's a situation that appears to be taking on a life of its own.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** When it comes to accomplishing your career objectives, stick to proven methods and procedures. What functioned well for you before will work even better for you now.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Because your intuitive perceptions are likely to be accurately zeroing in on the potential outcome of events, trust your instincts with impunity.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Peal of thunder
5 Cosmonaut's station
8 Minnows
12 Fix up a house
14 Knight's weapon
15 Mme. Gluck of opera
16 Familiar saying
17 Tel __
18 Headliner
19 Entry points
21 Time of the mammoths (2 wds.)
23 Khan of note
24 Md. neighbor
25 Lo- __ graphics
26 Adult
30 Watered silk
32 Archaeology find
33 Walked (2 wds.)
36 Civil offense
37 Quail family
38 9-to-5 units, commonly
40 Excused
42 Like an injured leg
43 Readied the bow
44 Birds with toes
45 Opposite of ruddy
48 Watch secretly
49 Sweater letter
50 Gold Rush state
52 Seismic events
57 156, to Cato
58 Rock's __ Straits
60 Eyewash acid
61 German canal city
62 Cloudburst
63 Joshua tree, e.g.
64 Bellow
65 U.K. part
66 Auto import

Down
1 Jagged rock
2 Helen of Troy's mother
3 At the drop of __ __
4 Leaf through
5 Dallas NBAers
6 Here, to Henri
7 Bring back to life
8 Headquarters
9 Sacred table
10 Portrait
11 Container weights
13 Watch out!
14 Pyramid builder
20 Stone or Ice
22 Give a darn
24 Wheedled
26 Colo. setting
27 Standing on
28 Prefix for "trillion"
29 Modern lead-in
30 Budged
31 A funny Murphy
33 Bear's delight
34 Poet's foot
35 Use a keyboard
37 Buddy
39 UNIX or DOS
41 Common UFO shape
42 Dirty
44 Herd of whales
45 Zany
46 Jane Curtin role
47 Belly button
49 Adolescent
51 Housecat's perch
52 Spruce
53 Harris and Piniella
54 "Free Willy" whale
55 Costa __
56 Accident reminder
59 Fleming of spydom

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6								8
1	5		8		6		2	
	8		4			3	1	
	1			7				
	3	5				2	9	
				9			6	
	2	8			9		3	
	6		5		1		4	2
4								5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

S	W	I	S	H		K	I	S	S		P	O	N	D
T	A	B	L	E		O	M	I	T		E	L	I	E
I	D	I	O	M		A	M	B	O		A	L	E	C
R	E	S	E	M	B	L	E		M	A	R	A	C	A
				E	L	A	N		P	A	S	S	E	L
N	E	V	A	D	A		S	A	S	H				
E	X	E	C		D	U	E	T		E	T	H	O	S
S	P	R	I	T	E	S		M	A	D	E	I	R	A
T	O	A	D	Y		D	U	S	K		S	L	A	G
				L	E	A	K		R	A	T	T	L	E
W	A	R	N	E	D		U	F	O	S				
A	B	O	A	R	D		L	I	N	K	E	D	U	P
K	I	D	S		I	T	E	R		I	R	A	T	E
E	D	I	T		E	E	L	S		N	I	N	E	S
D	E	N	Y		S	T	E	T		G	E	S	S	O

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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▶ The rainforest offers a one-of-a-kind getaway where you can turn off your electronics, explore nature and escape from the world.

▶ With stunning churches, museums, nightlife and plenty of shopping, Quito offers more traditional urban tourism fare.

When most people think about planning a trip to Ecuador, they imagine visiting either the big cities — like Quito, the capital — or the luxurious Galapagos Islands. But in between, there's an array of travel opportunities that often get overlooked. Bordered by Colombia, Peru and the Pacific Ocean, the Republic of Ecuador is divided into three distinctly different landscapes: the coast, the Andes Mountains and the Amazon Rainforest.

The coast

You can soak in all of the nation's famed beach life without shelling out big bucks for the Galapagos. Close to Manta, a port city in the Manabi Province, you can set out on Isla Corazon (Heart Island) mangrove tours and explore the heritage of more rural villages. A few hours' drive brings you to Alandaluz Hosteria, an eco-lodge with pools and a private beach **(www.alandaluzhosteria.com)**. Further south in Santa Elena, Salinas is nicknamed "Little Miami" for its fun-in-the-sun reputation. Nearby, Los Frailes is considered one of the country's most beautiful beaches.

The Andes

One major highlight is the Middle of the World, at the line of the equator in Pinchincha Province. You can learn about the physics and history of this intriguing geographical spot at its present, GPS-verified location — or at the site of the original monument, approximately 240 meters south. Don't miss El Crater, a restaurant and hotel located in Mirador del Puluagua on the edge of a large, scenic volcanic crater. With actual clouds wafting past at eye-level, the quirky-yet-upscale venue offers an exquisite sense of atmosphere **(www.elcrater.com)**.

The Amazon

You can make an entire trip out of a jaunt to the Amazon. The rainforest offers a one-of-a-kind getaway where you can turn off your electronics, explore nature and escape from the world. Choose from retreats like the Napo Wildlife Center, where packages include lodging, meals and activities. Bilingual guides lead hikes, bird-watching and canoe trips **(www.napowildlifecenter.com)**.

Ecuador is easy

- English is commonly spoken in major areas
- Ecuador uses American dollars as currency
- It's on EST, except during Daylight Saving Time
- Electric outlets take U.S. plugs without conversion
- Travel time is usually under 10 hours from Boston

Pit stop

In the middle of the three regions, Quito is an excellent layover for a day of rest and cultural intake. With stunning churches, museums, nightlife and plenty of shopping, the nation's capital offers more traditional urban tourism fare. Worth the steep drive through the heart of the city's colonial center, **El Ventanal** restaurant offers upscale dining with breathtaking panoramic views **(www.elventanal.ec)**. Our advice: Don't skip dessert.

▶ El Ventanal restaurant in Quito

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Ocean View	$529* pp	$529* pp	$809* pp	$849* pp
Balcony	$639* pp	$739* pp	$919* pp	$1159* pp

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GOT FIBROIDS?

Especially if you are a black woman in the third or fourth decade of life, the answer to this question is probably 'yes.'

Seen in 70 percent of reproductive age women, fibroids are the most common reason for surgical removal of the uterus in the U.S. In addition to the risks and consequences of this invasive procedure, fibroids are also associated with profuse menstrual bleeding, anemia, pelvic pain, infertility and miscarriage.

Dr. Serene Srouji, a gynecologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital notes that "many women have such heavy bleeding from fibroids that it interferes with their ability to work and care for their children and go about the tasks of daily living."

It has been recognized that fibroids are about three times more prevalent in black than in white women and that the predisposition to developing fibroids runs in some families. Despite their major public health impact, the cause of fibroids remains unknown.

The Center for Uterine Fibroids at BWH is conducting a research study, "Finding Genes for Uterine Fibroids," which is aimed at identifying the causes of uterine fibroids and brings hope to many women and their families, as it seeks to provide the answers and non-surgical treatment options desperately needed for future generations.

"The only completely effective treatment we currently have for fibroids is hysterectomy, an invasive surgery that forces women to give up their fertility," says Dr. Cynthia Morton, Director of Cytogenetics at BWH and Research Director of the Center for Uterine Fibroids. "This research is essential in developing alternative treatments and eventually alleviating the suffering of so many women."

GOT FIBROIDS?

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:
SISTERS WHO HAVE (OR HAVE HAD) FIBROIDS

The Center for Uterine Fibroids at Brigham and Women's Hospital seeks participants for a research study to identify the causes of uterine fibroid tumors. We are looking for families in which two sisters have (or have had) uterine fibroids. This research study involves filling out two surveys and giving a blood sample, all of which can be done by mail at no cost to you. Please join us in our efforts to search for the causes of uterine fibroids and help future generations of women.

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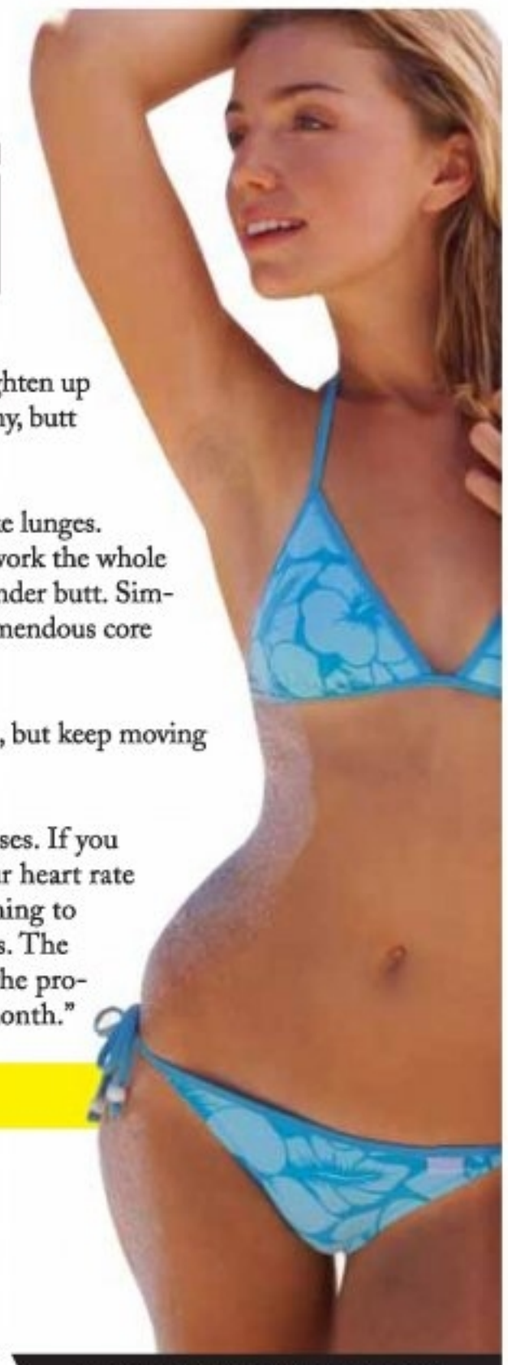

It's time to start thinking about that most merciless of garments that even the truly toned professional trainers dread: the bikini.

"Even I go through the exact same thing every woman goes through at this time of year when they start thinking about putting on a bikini," says Jackie Warner, a FitOrbit-certified trainer, author and star of Bravo's "Thintervention" (www.jackie-warner.fitorbit.com). "The bikini is very unforgiving."

"I say crunches are a waste of time ... Crunches can build muscle under fat and make the belly look even bigger."

But even though summer is just around the corner, there's still time to get toned up. Get going now with a bikini-ready workout (and watching what you eat) in order to hit the beach this summer sporting that taut bum and tight tum you crave.

Warner says there are misconceptions on which exercises work best. For instance, for tightening up the belly, most people hit the floor for some crunches.

"I say crunches are a waste of time. It's the slowest way to build muscle," she says. "Crunches can build muscle under fat and make the belly look even bigger."

Instead, she recommends not concentrating on the almighty "washboard" upper abs — the lower abdominals are what pulls a woman's belly in more. Warner chooses squats and lunges over crunches, and planks and push-ups over sit-ups. These tighten up those bikini-sensitive areas — tummy, butt and thighs — all at the same time.

"People don't like lunges; I don't like lunges. But they are very effective. Planks work the whole lower body and result in a firm, rounder butt. Simple military-style push-ups give tremendous core strengthening, too."

Keep it very simple, Warner advises, but keep moving in order to burn fat as you tone.

"Don't take rests in between exercises. If you keep moving hard, it builds up your heart rate and metabolism. One important thing to remember is that the body plateaus. The body adapts. If you want keep up the progress, change your routine every month."

SIMPLE EXERCISES FOR ACHIEVING THAT BIKINI BODY

FLAT FLYE

- Hold a dumbbell in each hand and lie on your back.
- With your palms facing each other, extend your arms straight up so that the dumbbells are directly over your chest.
- Slightly bend your elbows and extend them downward in an arc until you feel a complete stretch in your upper chest.
- Hold the open position for a pause.
- Now squeeze your chest muscles and draw your arms back to the starting position.

FRONT ALTERNATING LUNGE

- Begin with your feet together, your chest out and your shoulders back. Hold a dumbbell in each hand at your sides.
- Take a big step forward on your right foot and lower the opposite knee to the ground.
- Push back to the starting position without bouncing. Make sure you put your weight on the lunging heel, not on your toe.
- Alternate to your left side, repeating the movement.

STRAIGHT LEG DROP

- Lie on your back with your legs lifted so that they are perpendicular to the floor and your hands are palm-down gripping the floor.
- Slowly lower your legs until they are two inches from the floor.
- Raise to the starting position.

DEEP SQUAT

- Stand with your feet a little wider than shoulder-width apart and your knees slightly bent.
- Hold a dumbbell in each hand for increased resistance.
- Keeping your head neutral, abs tight and torso erect, bend at the knees and hips to slowly lower your body as if you were going to sit down in a chair. Your thighs should be parallel to the floor.
- Straighten your legs to the starting position, pressing back up from your heels.

Top foods for a flatter stomach

By Joy Bauer, MS, RD

With swimsuit season just around the corner, bloat has become public enemy number one. Everyday bloating can be caused by water retention (typically from eating too many salty foods), or by overdoing it on gassy foods (think high-fiber cereals and bars, broccoli and Brussels sprouts) that puff you up with extra air. Whatever the cause, it's downright uncomfortabe, and certainly doesn't flatter your warm weather wardrobe. While no one food can flatten a flabby belly, there are some strategic nibbles that can help you get a smashing bikini bod in time for summer.

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GRILLED VEGGIES

Load your grill with mushrooms, onions, bell peppers, zucchini, eggplant and asparagus — you'll fill up and be more apt to pass on the heavier sides like macaroni and potato salad. For an easy, low-cal prep, spray your veggies with an oil mister and lightly toss with preferred seasonings.

FROZEN RED/PURPLE GRAPES

At only 80 calories per cup, frozen grapes are the perfect way to satisfy a sweet tooth without packing on the pounds. Plus, the red and purple varieties are brimming with antioxidants.

CUCUMBERS

Cucumbers are loaded with water and naturally low in sodium. Plus, one whole cucumber provides only 45 calories.

BANANAS

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Each popped cup has two grams of fiber and only 30 calories. But be sure to go easy on the salt — try other seasonings like chili powder, garlic powder, cinnamon… even a few dashes of hot sauce!

EGG WHITES

One egg white provides only 17 calories and four grams of filling protein, which means an egg white omelet is the perfect slimming morning meal. Plus, studies show that eating a protein-rich breakfast can help curb appetite later in the day and boost weight loss efforts.

UNSWEETENED ICED TEA AND COFFEE

Calorie-free and full of antioxidants, these beverages fill you up and help flush out extra sodium. Add a shot of natural sweetness to cold tea by slicing in fresh fruit and refrigerating overnight. And stick with skim or 1 percent low-fat cow's milk, soy milk or unsweetened almond milk for the coffee.

For more slimming tips, follow Joy Bauer on Facebook and Twitter (@joybauer) and visit www.joybauer.com.

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Should you opt for natural skin care products?

Though the FDA approves the safety of skin care ingredients, there's growing concern that the synthetic chemicals we put on our skins are as potentially harmful as those we eat.

"These chemicals are detrimental inside and out," says Christina Mahar, founder of Sia Botanics, which shuns parabens, sulfates, colors, fragrance and petrochemicals. "I'm a big believer that artificial colors and fragrances are really toxic. The irony is, these products that are supposed to improve how we look and be anti-aging are often the opposite," she adds. "Many synthetics cause free radical damage, which is the foundation of aging skin. On the front end, the product feels good, you might look better, but a few years down the line your skin looks older than it should."

Input from the medical community is behind the FDA ruling on product safety, though.

"I agree with the FDA that there has been no conclusive link between parabens and breast cancer, even though very low amounts have been found in breast tissue," says the American Academy of Dermatology's Dr. Susan Taylor. " I think that in low concentrations they are safe in cosmetic products."

"A lot of ingredients get bad reps," says Jeffrey James Shoe, CEO of Jeffrey James Botanicals. "Sometimes it's marketing, sometimes there's truth to it. I have definitely read way too many articles about parabens not to think there are some possible links to cancer. I avoid all products with synthetic fragrances [and] mineral oils, and people that test on animals aren't friends of mine."

Keep track

Education is key, but Googling every ingredient is exhausting.

"Keep track of what is in your skin care just the same as you do your food," says Mahar. "It can be overwhelming; there are so many ingredients to be aware of. Find a brand you know you can trust."

Shoe agrees: "Do your homework; find an organic brand that works [for you]. Look at the back ingredient deck. If there are more ingredients [you don't recognize than do], then pass."

But Dr. Taylor says you don't have to go overboard: "In general, I think that most synthetic chemicals found in cosmetic products are safe."

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Art of the close

Celtics looking to end series in five games ◗ Young Hawks have not responded well to adversity ◗ Pierce banged up, questionable for tonight

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Josh Smith and the Hawks are looking to extend the series to at least a Game 6 in Boston on Thursday.

Three things to look for in Game 5:

Health concerns
Sunday's win over the Hawks was huge, but did it come at a high price? The C's traveled to Atlanta for tonight's Game 5 (8 p.m., CSNNE), and it's yet to be determined how healthy they'll be. Ray Allen is still dealing with an ankle issue, and the high altitude of the flight won't do it any favors. Mickael Pietrus strained his hamstring during Game 4, and hasn't played like the player the C's need in this series. Last, Paul Pierce tweaked his knee in Game 4. He came back out to play, and will most likely play tonight, but it's something to keep an eye on.

Any pride left for ATL?
If there was one knock on the Hawks going into the postseason, it was that they were mentally weak. They don't have a lot of proven veterans who see the court, and their young guys aren't ready to take the next step. Joe Johnson and Josh Smith are great players, but they have yet to really show up for long stretches in the postseason. During Game 4, nobody showed up. So, will they rebound from the embarrassing loss and defend home court, or roll over and die? The Celtics shouldn't waltz into the game, because, who knows, Atlanta could show some heart.

Calling on role players
We've seen great games out of Paul Pierce and Rajon Rondo thus far. Avery Bradley has stepped up as of late, and Kevin Garnett is doing what he does best — providing energy and defense. But where have Brandon Bass and Pietrus gone? Pietrus shrunk in Game 3, and again in Game 4. Bass hasn't had a really big game for the C's, averaging 8.5 points and 5.3 rebounds after four games. But there will be a time they'll be needed to step up in place of the tired veterans. Tonight could be it.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hamels

Hamels suspended

Cole Hamels claimed he was playing some old-school baseball. But new-school baseball didn't see it that way and suspended the Phillies' youngest ace for five games. Hamels intentionally drilled Nationals rookie Bryce Harper in the back during Sunday's 9-3 win.

Gonzalez in five spot

Red Sox first baseman Adrian Gonzalez was dropped in the batting order last night in Kansas City from fourth to fifth.

Gonzalez had a pair of factors going against him as he had struggled against KC's Jonathan Sanchez and had gone 0-for-8 Sunday. METRO

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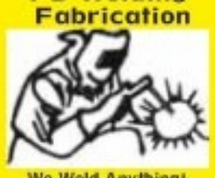

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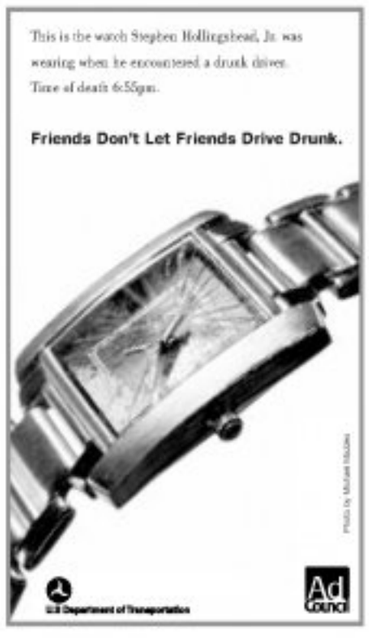
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2. Fill out this rebate form completely and clearly.
3. Circle the qualifying purchase on your dated sales receipt, invoice or packing slip.
4. Include the original Shark product label which shows the UPC code product part number and brief product description located on the package label. Copies will not be accepted.
5. In one envelope mail completed rebate form, dated sales receipt/invoice/packing slip, and the original product label described above to:

Euro-Pro Shark Offer #1433
Po Box 5059
White Plains NY 10602-9998

Terms and Conditions:
Mail-in Rebate Offer good on purchases at participating retailers between May 8, 2012 and June 5, 2012 on qualifying Shark purchases. Orders placed on www.sharkboston.com will have rebate instantly applied. www.sharkboston.com orders will be ineligible for mail-in rebates. All requests must be postmarked no later than July 5, 2012. Original label containing the UPC code, part number and description for the product (found on the outside of the product's package) and an original or photocopy of the receipt/invoice /packing slip are required. Allow 6-8 weeks for rebate check delivery after validation. Euro-Pro/Shark reserves the right to request additional information to validate your rebate claim. Offer valid in United States and Canada only. Rebate checks will be paid in U.S. Dollars. Keep copies of all materials submitted; originals will not be returned. Not responsible for lost, late, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, incorrect, or illegible requests. Offer is limited to product on hand and NO substitutions with other products are eligible. False information disqualifies this claim. Violators may be prosecuted. Offer void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law. Euro-Pro reserves the right to modify or withdraw this promotion at any time. To accept this offer you must cash your rebate check no later than 120 days from the issue date. By applying, you agree that we may void your rebate if you fail to cash your check by then. This offer will not accept further processing activity 6 months from the last valid purchase date. If you have not received your check within 12 weeks, please visit www.datarebate.com. For information or questions regarding the status of your rebate claim, go to www.datarebate.com or call 1-877-630-2345.